Acquisition of agricultural and waste lands for SEZs

2423. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertile agricultural land has been acquired, alongwith the waste land; for setting up of Special Economic Zones in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss of production of foodgrains and cereals due to change of land use; and

(d) how it is proposed to make good of loss in production of foodgrains and cereals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCEAND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) In the 234 valid formal approvals granted for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) till date, the extent of land involved is 33,807 hectares of which approximately 17,800 hectares of land was already in the ownership/possession of State Industrial Development Corporations. The rest of the lands were those which were already in the possession of the developers. This extent of land would not hamper the agricultural production in the country considering the fact that total land under cultivation in the country is over 100 million hectares.

Production and export of marine food

2424. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of export of marine food has declined during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production and export of marine food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.